



# **U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales**

*Serving the 23<sup>rd</sup> District of Texas*

**Class of 2027 Service Academy  
Nomination Application Packet**



U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales  
*23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Texas*

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Thank you for your interest in receiving a congressional nomination to a United States Service Academy. One of the highest privileges and responsibilities I have, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, is the opportunity to nominate outstanding young people from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District to be considered for appointment to our nation's service academies. The academies provide a first-rate college education to young men and women leading to their commissioning as officers in the U.S. Armed Forces.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives and am pleased to have you as a candidate for nomination from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. If you have any questions, please contact: Brittney Smith at [Brittney.Smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brittney.Smith@mail.house.gov) or Amanda Mercer at [Amanda.Mercer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Amanda.Mercer@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Gonzales", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress

## **Congressional Nomination Process**

Admission to a U.S. service academy is a two-tiered process. **First**, the candidate must **apply for admission** and meet the high entry standards set by the individual academy. These standards include, among others, medical, physical and scholastic qualifications. The **second** tier is to **obtain a nomination from an official source**. An individual must meet the admission requirements of the academy, as well as, receive a nomination in order to be considered for appointment to the academies.

To be considered for an appointment to a U.S. service academy, an applicant must **have a nomination from an authorized nomination source**. There are two nomination categories. The first, usually referred to as "congressional nominations" include nominations from the applicant's U.S. Senators (Senator John Cornyn: [www.cornyn.senate.gov](http://www.cornyn.senate.gov)), (Senator Ted Cruz: [www.cruz.senate.gov](http://www.cruz.senate.gov)), and from the applicant's U.S. Representative (U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales: <https://gonzales.house.gov>). Applicants to a Senator's office must be residents of the State of Texas; applicants to House offices must be residents of that congressional district. Note: **Each member of Congress is permitted to nominate up to 10 individuals from his or her district/state for each academy.**

Also, included in this nomination category is the Vice President of the United States (Vice President Kamala Harris: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/service-academy-nominations>). Vice President Harris' submission deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Note: The Vice President may NOT nominate to Coast Guard or Merchant Marine Academies.

The second nomination category is referred to as "service-connected" or "military-affiliated" nominations. Children of career and/or retired military personnel may also seek a nomination through the Office of the President of the United States (see academy websites for more details).

**As the nomination process is highly competitive, it is strongly recommended that interested students pursue nominations from all the nominating sources available to them and apply for admission to all academies in which they have a sincere interest.**

Congressman Gonzales' nomination functions as a recommendation to the academies, and it is his responsibility to nominate highly qualified and committed candidates to each academy. Assisting him in the nominations process is his Service Academy Board. The Board will meet in November to perform an objective, merit-based review of the applicants' files and conduct personal interviews. Congressman Gonzales' office will notify qualified applicants of their interview status in late October/early November. Congressman Gonzales' nominees will be presented to the academies in January for appointment consideration. **A congressional nomination does not guarantee acceptance to the academies. Ultimate selection of appointees rests solely with academy officials and is based on their competitive evaluation of all nominees.**

## **Timetable for the Nomination Application Process**

### **July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Application Process Opens**

Students, who reside in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Texas and meet the eligibility criteria, may request a Congressional Nomination to a Service Academy. You may request Congressman Gonzales' nomination packet at any time up to the submission deadline. However, the earlier you begin the process of applying and gathering the required documents, the better.

### **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Nomination Application Deadline**

ALL nomination packets and required documents **MUST** be postmarked by **11: 59 PM on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Send completed nomination packets to:

Congressman Tony Gonzales  
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator  
6333 De Zavala Rd. Suite A216  
San Antonio, TX 78249

**Applicants are responsible for making sure their files are complete.** If you do not submit the required documentation by the above deadline, your application will not be considered. You will be notified by Congressman Gonzales' office when your file is complete. Note: Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Congressman Gonzales' San Antonio office to set-up an appointment with staff to review your completed application packet ahead of the deadline so that any problems may be addressed early.

### **TBD November 2022: Interviews with Academy Board**

Congressman Gonzales' Service Academy Board will meet in November to perform an objective, merit-based review of qualified applicants' files and to conduct personal interviews. Notification of interview appointment date, time and place will be made to qualified applicants.

### **January 2022: Announcement of Nominees**

All candidates will be notified as to their nomination status and nominations submitted to the Service Academies.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Applicants must meet the following requirements as of July 1 of the year of admission to the Academy:

**Age:** The student must be between 17 and 22 years of age. (USMMA: 25 years of age)

**Citizenship:** Applicant must be a United States Citizen by November 1 of the application year.

**Marital Status:** Must be unmarried, not pregnant and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

**Domicile:** Candidate must reside in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Texas

## Selection Criteria

Nominations from U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales are based on an evaluation process that examines all aspects of an applicant's qualifications. Applicants are considered for nomination based upon four criteria:

**Scholarship:** Evaluation of academic records will include the applicant's grade point average, SAT/ACT scores, student's willingness to embrace academic challenges, and, if applicable, any college records.

**Leadership:** Consideration will be made based on the student's leadership experience and potential command ability. The consideration of this qualification will be based upon the applicant's record of extracurricular activities. Quality of involvement is stressed over the number of activities.

**Character/Motivation:** Consideration of the motivation and desire of applicants to attend a service academy is based upon the essay submitted by the applicant, their recommendations and evaluation forms, and their interview before the Academy Board.

**Competitiveness:** The final consideration of an applicant for a nomination is comparative in nature, appraising each applicant's attributes against all others who are applying.

Note: With respect to the congressional nomination category, each Representative and each Senator is allowed to have at each academy five persons at any one time charged to his or her quota. There are three methods of congressional nomination; Congressman Gonzales utilizes the "competitive method".

Using this method, the Member of Congress (MOC) submits an unranked slate of nominees for each vacancy at each academy. For each open vacancy, usually one per year at each academy, up to ten nominations may be made. The competitive method provides that the nominees on each slate compete among themselves for appointment consideration by the admissions authorities at that academy. Each academy reviews the submitted slate for that specific academy and selects the most qualified nominee(s) for appointment.

Appointment offers rest solely with each academy. As a courtesy to the Member of Congress (MOC) who submitted the nomination, each academy will notify the MOC of an appointment offer that will be extended to one of their nominees. The MOC then has the opportunity to notify their constituent of the appointment offer.

An appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, or U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a distinct and rare honor. Acceptance of an academy appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active duty service.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Attn: Brittney Smith

Office of U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales

6333 De Zavalla Rd

San Antonio, TX 78249

Phone: (210) 806-9920

Email: [Brittney.Smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brittney.Smith@mail.house.gov)

## **Admission to a U.S. Service Academy**

In addition to seeking and obtaining a nomination from an official source, it is also necessary for the applicant to directly contact the Academy(s) of their choice to initiate a pre-candidate file. Candidates are evaluated for admission on the basis of outstanding academic performance (high school record and SAT or ACT scores), demonstrated leadership potential, physical aptitude, and medical qualification.

Each service academy will be able to answer specific questions and schedule individual medical examinations. Note: Such examinations are separate from the nomination process and are required prior to receiving an appointment to a service academy. Due to the rigorous physical programs at the academies, candidates must meet the medical and physical requirements specified by each academy to which they seek admittance.

**Remember that the congressional nomination process and the academy application process are different and separate.** To apply for admission to an academy and obtain more information:

### **U.S. Military Academy (Army)**

USMA Admissions  
606 Thayer Road  
West Point, New York 10996-1797  
Phone: 800/822-2769  
[www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu)

### **U.S. Naval Academy**

USNA Admissions Office  
117 Decatur Road  
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018  
Phone: 800/822-2769  
[www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu)

### **U.S. Coast Guard Academy**

USCGA Admissions Office  
New London, CT 06320-4195  
Phone: 203/444-8501  
[www.uscga.edu](http://www.uscga.edu)

### **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**

USMMA Admissions  
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699  
Phone: 800/732-6267  
[www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

### **U.S. Air Force Academy**

USAFA Admissions Office  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840-5651  
Phone: 800/443-9266  
[www.usafa.edu](http://www.usafa.edu)

Note: For admission to the USCGA, congressional nominations are no longer required or submitted. You may apply to them directly.